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## Show and tell

Local history groups tells all

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## Happy anniversary

St. Louis Bar and Grill celebrates a year

13

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# Flash Mob at Don Cherry's

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Treblemakers Music Academy's Bradford Bellas Club brought some 'flash' to Don Cherry's. Story on Page 15.

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# Council OKs senior housing plan

MIRIAM KING  
Bradford Times

Bradford West Gwillimbury Council "means business," when it comes to Seniors Housing - and has agreed to a program that will provide financial incentives to developers.

On March 1, Council approved a plan proposed by Chief Administrative Officer Geoff McKnight, to create a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Area, covering the entire Bradford urban area, that would apply specifically to seniors housing.

The Seniors Housing CIP would mirror the Down-

town Community Improvement Plan, offering grants to cover application fees and development charges, and a tax-based increment grant program. But the program would be limited to projects that provide 50 or more senior living spaces or dwelling units, offer onsite amenities catering to older adults, and that are fully compliant with AODA accessibility standards.

The CAO also proposed that the grants available be capped at 50% of the fees and charges, to limit the financial burden on the Town.

McKnight warned Council that the grant would only

cover the municipal portion of costs - not County of Simcoe or Education Development Charges. The County has agreed to offset its DCs on approved Commercial/Industrial development, within a CIP program - but not residential development, like Seniors' housing.

"I'm happy with the report," said Mayor Rob Keffer. "It shows we mean business." And although the grants are capped at 50%, "that's certainly better than the whole rate... It's a good stimulus."

McKnight recommended a 3-year period for the CIP program - reflecting what is left of this term of office. How-

ever, since the needs for Seniors housing could be satisfied by 2 or 3 large-scale projects, he also suggested that a clause be included, allowing Council to terminate the program when it has accomplished Council's goals.

There is currently "lots of interest" in the program, McKnight said, adding that the Economic Development Office would contact developers, and "make it clear to them that this program is here to assist."

Councillor Peter Dykje Jr. asked if there was servicing - sewer and water allocation - available for Seniors Housing.

McKnight replied that there is sufficient allocation for institutional-type housing - living units, with a communal dining area and other amenities - but that the Town only has 120 to 130 units in reserve for regular housing/condo-style accommodation, at least until the expansion of Innisfil's Lakeshore Water Treatment Plant is completed.

Council unanimously approved the Seniors Housing CIP program. "It's a true incentive program. It sets the urgency," said Councillor Gary Baynes. "Let's get it." Staff will now prepare

a formal Seniors Housing CIP proposal, and schedule a Public Meeting, likely in April. Final approval is slated for May.

McKnight also considered incentives for hotel/conference developments - but recommended that, outside of the Downtown CIP, Council only consider deferral of Development Charges, rather than grants.

At the moment, the programs do not have a budget, but staff recommended an "internal borrowing mechanism" similar to that used for the Town's Industrial CIP Areas, that would avoid direct taxation.

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### FLOURLESS CARROT-ALMOND CAKE

Using the finest grater (but not a zester!) grate the carrots-you need 1 1/4 cups.

In a large bowl, whip together for 1 minute:  
6 egg yolks with  
3 Tbsp. Honey.  
Stir in the carrots,  
2 Tbsp. Dark rum  
1/2 tsp. vanilla

Stir in 2 1/2 cups almond flour [ground almond]

In a medium bowl:

Whip the 6 egg whites until soft peaks form, then gradually add 3/4 cup white sugar. Stir a third of the egg whites into the carrot mixture to loosen the batter. Gently fold in the remaining egg whites, taking care not to deflate the batter.

Divide the batter between 2 parchment lined 8 inch pans and bake for 10 minutes at 375F. Lower heat to 350F and bake for another 30 minutes or until the tester comes out clean. Let cool for 15 minutes before removing from pan.

### CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

Beat together 1/2 cup butter and 1/2 cup cream cheese until smooth. Slowly add 2 cups icing sugar, beating until smooth. Add 1 tsp. vanilla and spread over the 2 layers, leaving the sides uniced.

**NOTE:** I sprinkled chocolate vermicelli over the top. You could use nuts, icing crystals or grated orange. Store in fridge.

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79 MAPLEGROVE



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12 DEPEUTER



BEDROOMS: 3+2 BATHROOMS: 3

260 GREENWOOD - ANGUS



BEDROOMS: 4 BATHROOMS: 4

43 METCALFE



BEDROOMS: 2+2 BATHROOMS: 3

# Opinion

## Point of View

# Yo-Yo health care?

**Y**o-yo dieting is a recognized problem, for those struggling to lose weight.

Weight loss alternates with weight gain, as individuals embrace faddy diets, instead of a sustainable, healthy lifestyle.

The same thing seems to be happening in Ontario's Health Care system. The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care announces programs aimed at reducing wait times in Emergency Rooms or wait times for key surgeries, or improving the level of care in hospital and at home – but alternates such announcements with funding cuts or freezes, impacting resident and patient care.

The latest in the up-and-down cycle of health care funding has resulted in cuts to nursing staff and closure of hospital beds in some regions.

The Ontario Council of Hospital Unions pointed out that in 2015-16, Ontario will be spending \$1,395.73 per capita on hospital funding – 25% less than the national average of \$1,749. Ontario hospital patients receive 6.1 hours less nursing care

than patients in the rest of Canada. And understaffing in hospitals and long-term care centres creates issues not only for staff, but for patients and residents, lowering quality of care at the very time that the population is aging, and the need is growing.

We understand that the burden of health care costs is enormous, but the solution isn't "yo-yo" funding. There needs to be a "healthy lifestyle" approach – a rationalization of the current models of health care delivery, and funding that keeps pace. If the Province wants to see more health services delivered at home and in the community, it will have to work with health care providers to develop models that work – and finally address the lumbering Community Care Access Centres.

Established in 1995 to provide a one-stop approach to access to health care, CCACs were slammed by Ontario's Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk last year, for failing to meet the needs of residents, and for swallowing nearly \$1 Billion in health care funding (39% of their budgets) for administration costs.

## Letters to the Editor

### PROVINCIAL BUDGET CONCERNS

To the editor: On February 23, the Liberal Government announced they would be releasing the Ontario budget at an earlier date than originally anticipated, February 25.

I was very disappointed to learn that the government was rushing to release their budget, because I had hoped the government was taking its time to ensure the people of Ontario were properly consulted. The Government held a number of pre-budget hearings and public consultations, which I attended.

Now it appears that these meetings were just for show.

Ontario has among the highest energy prices in North America; cuts to frontline health care services are rampant

across the province; and our debt is growing at the fastest rate of any federal or provincial government in Canada.

The Ontario PC Caucus and our Leader Patrick Brown outlined three reasonable requests, that the people of Ontario deserve to see included in the budget. The three are: a credible plan to make energy affordable in Ontario; a properly managed health care system; and a credible plan to balance the budget and pay down the debt.

Life has become increasingly difficult under the Wynne Liberals. I look forward to working with my colleagues in all parties to advocate for the best interests of my constituents, and residents across Ontario.

MP JILL MUNRO, YORK-SIMCOE

### DISAPPOINTED IN STORY

To the editor: My name is Melissa Mendrek and I am the daughter of one of the owners of 27 John St. East.

I was very disappointed reading your write-up on the demolition of the building. You refer to the building as a "100 year old structure" but to our family it was our home. My grandparents and great-grandparents purchased that home in the early 1940s, and it has housed and helped a lot of people over the past 70 years.

The last 10 months have been very hard for all those involved. Dealing with insurance companies, demolition companies, tenants, restoration companies, lawyers, BWG Fire & Emergency Services, the Heritage Committee, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, etc., has been overwhelming, to say the least.

We finally reached a point where we got the okay to demolish the building,

and bring some closure to the fire – and read in The Times that the building is "an eyesore, and the target of complaints from neighbours, concerned over mold, rodents and other wildlife, sheltering in the derelict structure." I am very surprised to read this. The Town of BWG has been understanding during this process, along with the surrounding neighbours whom we have all spoken to, multiple times. It was out of our control and in the hands of other powers to be. At no time were we ever contacted by The Times for a comment, or our side of the alleged concerns.

Overall, my family, who has lived in this town for over 125 years, are very disappointed and embarrassed by how this was portrayed. We always kept a well-maintained building that we were proud of, and will continue to do so with the now-vacant land.

MELISSA MENDREK, BRADFORD

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## Twenty years of service



St. John's Presbyterian Church hosted a special service and reception, to mark a milestone: the 20th year of ministry by Rev. Dr. Daniel Scott. Approximately 200 parishioners and guests attended the service, which included Dr. Scott's 105th Baptism. Ordained at St. John's in 1996, Rev. Scott is Chair of the Dept. of Christian Ministries and Associate Professor at Tyndale University College, and over the past 20 years has seen his congregation grow from about a dozen people, to an average of 200. The Church itself moved to the current location on 10 Sideroad in 2004 - a fully handicapped-accessible and modern building, that serves as a community hub. Special guests included members of Dr. Scott's previous church, from over 20 years ago, and dignitaries Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Rob Keffer, MPP Julia Munro, and MP for York Simcoe, Peter Van Loan. The dignitaries presented plaques and certificates at the Beef-on-a-Bun luncheon that followed the Service, on February 28.

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# this WEEK

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## Meetings & Announcements

### Town Council

Members of the public are invited to attend all Council, Committee of the Whole and other Committee meetings. Meeting dates, times, and agendas are available from the Town's website at [www.townofbwg.com](http://www.townofbwg.com).

For further information or to request a deputation, please contact the Clerk's Division: 905-775-5366.

### Regular Meetings of Council & Committee of the Whole

• Tues. Mar. 15 @ 7:00 p.m. - BWG Library & Cultural Centre, 425 Holland St. W., Zima Room

### Board/Committee Meetings

#### Heritage Committee

• Mon. Mar. 7 @ 6:30 p.m.  
BWG Engineering Services  
305 Barrie St. Boardroom

#### Accessibility Advisory Committee

• Wed. Mar. 9 @ 6:30 p.m.  
BWG Engineering Services  
305 Barrie St. Boardroom

#### Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

• Thurs. Mar. 10 @ 6:30 p.m.  
BWG Library & Cultural Centre  
425 Holland St. W., Zima Room

### Summer Company Information Session: Students and Parents Invited!

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## Events & Activities

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## Thank-you, Diane!



Diane Granger is moving to Orillia - but not before friends and colleagues held a farewell party, at 100 Miller Park. Granger was thanked for her years as an educator in the Simcoe County District School Board; her work as a founder and volunteer with the Helping Hand Food Bank of Bradford; her years as a volunteer reader helping elementary school kids practice their reading; and her work with Trinity Anglican Church ACW. Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Rob Keffer presented a certificate "to recognize a resident of Bradford who has really done so much for the Town," praising Granger for her "loyalty and commitment."

## Frauds and Scams

The Tec-We-Gwill Women's Institute is hosting a special presentation by South Simcoe Police on the topic, "Fraud," Tuesday, March 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Tec-

We-Gwill WI Hall in Newton Robinson, County Rd. 27 and Line 10 BWG. All are welcome; non-members \$5. Learn more about common frauds and scams, and how to protect yourself.



### FIRE PREVENTION SMARTS

At least 80 percent of all fire deaths occur in home fires. Here are some smart Fire Prevention tips for protecting yourself and your family:

- ✓ Never leave candles burning unattended, and keep candles out of reach from children
- ✓ Keep space heaters away from curtains and other flammable materials
- ✓ Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside each bedroom, and test batteries monthly



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# Show & Tell with the Local History Association

MIRIAM KING  
Bradford Times

From a hand-painted tea cup - a wedding present to the first couple to be married at the "new" Trinity Anglican Church in 1900 - to a collection of licence plates representing all 10 provinces and two Territories, the February 27 meeting of the BWG Local History Association featured a "Show & Tell" by members, and a fascinating look into days gone by.

John Fennell brought in a collection of items - including a photo of his great grandfather, "Squire" Joseph Fennell, Standing 6'11", Squire Fennell came to West Gwillimbury from County Tyrone in 1828. He served as Constable from 1850 to 1857 - Fennell brought in the pair of blacksmith-made handcuffs dating from that era - and as Reeve, in 1887.

Fennell also brought in the bygone that had been fixed to the rifle of his uncle Hilliard, who fought in World War 1 - and shared stories of the early Township, including an "oil rush" in the 1940s.

"Quite a story went around, that West Gwillimbury was sitting on a big pool of oil," he

said; a big rig came in to drill, "but all they got was gas." A second hole had no more success than the first, even after they attempted to "blow" the hole, to get the oil flowing.

There was a big explosion, a cloud of dust - but still no oil. "They sold shares all over. A lot of people were taken," said Fennell. "It was quite a scheme... West Gwillimbury was noted for schemes," from gold mines to the failed Collingwood grain elevator scheme. "A lot of people here invested in that."

Ileen Sabean, of the Innisfil Historical Society, stumped members with a large metal kitchen tool. The best guess: a potato ricer. "You can use it as a potato ricer," Sabean acknowledged - but it was actually a German Spaetzle noodle maker, belonging to her mother.

Vera and Wilson Stoddart brought in the minutes of the Scotch Settlement Historical Society from the 1970s, recently rediscovered - and June Chambers, a late 19th Century wooden button, that she traced back to a local tailor, Geo. Ogilvie, known to have shops in Newton Robin-



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Ileen Sabean invited guests to guess the use of her kitchen utensil, at the Show & Tell meeting of the BWG Local History Association in Bradford, Ont. on Saturday February 27, 2016.

son and Bradford. The "Merchant Tailor" sold men's clothing from his store beside the Queen's Hotel on Holland St. West, from about 1890 to at least 1906.

Louis Theriault described two road trips - one from Toronto to Alaska in 2002 that took 5 weeks and covered 20,000 km, and another in 2004, from Woodbridge to Labrador and Newfoundland, that

covered 10,000 km in 3 and a half weeks. Along the way, Theriault collected vintage licence plates, from dumps, body shops, collectors, even the roadside - and his stories of travel and bargaining for plates kept the crowd laughing.

Treasured books, a beaded pincushion, the original clock out of the old St. John's Presbyterian Church on Church St., a photo of the 1891 Bradford Fire Brigade, a porcelain tea set and English salt cellar - each item led to new stories, that covered the history of the Town and beyond.

Several items related to World War I. Jan Coward brought in English Service medals from World Wars I and II, while sharing her newest project. Using local honour rolls, war memorials, details of local battalions, and Women's Institute lists, Coward is working on a complete list of all local people who signed up for World War I, 1914-1918. So far, she has collected 416 names - but she is hoping that residents will contact her to share the histories of their relatives and ancestors, who fought in the "Great War" and share artifacts and memorabilia. Coward wants to eventually put together a book on the World War I Veterans of West Gwillimbury and Bradford, to preserve the heritage.

"Much of it is long gone," Coward said. "World War I is 100 years ago" - but there must be family records, tucked away, to show and tell, and share.

The next meeting of the BWG Local History Association will take place March 31, in the Board Room of the BWG Public Library, at 7 p.m. - featuring the presentation of a movie by the Tecumseh & West Gwillimbury Historical Society.



Leila and Edgar Lloyd, with the original clock from the old St. John's Presbyterian Church ca. 1893, in Bradford, Ont. on Saturday February 27, 2016.



John Fennell brought a photo of his Great-grandfather "Squire" Joseph Fennell, and the pair of hand-forged handcuffs Fennell used as Constable of West Gwillimbury ca. 1850, to the Show & Tell Meeting of the BWG Local History Association in Bradford, Ont. on Saturday February 27, 2016.



Louis Theriault, with licence plates collected on two road trips across Canada, at the Show & Tell Meeting of the BWG Local History Association in Bradford, Ont. on Saturday February 27, 2016.

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## Award for Lifetime Achievement

Queen's Park - Ontario Heritage Trust and The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell presented the 2015 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards, at a special ceremony at Queen's Park on Friday, February 26.

Among those recognized for Lifetime Achievement (over 25 years, or more) were John Aikman of Hamilton, Robert Alexander of Owen Sound, Craig Campbell of Waterloo, Elizabeth Oliver-Malone of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Robert Shirley of Melancthon, Jack Watt (Grimsby), and Bradford West Gwillimbury resident, David Chambers.

In the information published by Ontario Heritage Trust, Dr. Chambers was described as "a champion of heritage in Bradford West Gwillimbury and Bond Head for 35 years," a founder of 2 local heritage committees, and a published author who has shared his passion for history.

Chambers was also commended for saving and restoring four heritage buildings, including his residence in Bond Head, the circa 1850 Brazil House, and the 1862 Orange Hall, restored as a workshop behind his home.

"Each year, the Trust is



IAN CHRYSLER/ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

David Chambers, centre, receives Award from The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and Professor Thomas H.B. Symons, Chair of Ontario Heritage Trust at Queen's Park in Toronto, Ont. on Friday February 26, 2016.

greatly impressed by the incredibly creative work being done by so many people across the province to preserve and celebrate our precious heritage resources," said Prof. Thomas H.B. Symons, chair of Ontario Heritage Trust. "I am honoured to recognize these remarkable individuals, groups and communities. Their commitment to conserving Ontario's heritage and sharing our stories is commendable."

Bradford West Gwillimbury

Mayor Rob Keffer and Councillor Ron Orr attended the awards presentation.

Other awards presented included 72 Youth Achievement Awards (both Individual and Group), 7 Excellence in Conservation Awards, and one Community Leadership Award. Grandmother Josephine Mandamin received an Excellence in Conservation Award for her Water Walks, raising awareness of the importance of clean water for all Ontarians.

## Marsh Barge celebrates a milestone

ART JARNE

Special to The Bradford Times

Looking back through the records, on many occasions it was suggested that the Holland Marsh needed some type of machine for cleaning out the river - the "main drain."

One of the biggest problems in the river was weed growth - as well as siltation, which meant that it was difficult to maintain the flow of water to the pumps. The drawdown at the pumps kept causing them to shut down prematurely.

In 1967, the Province established and paid for an expert committee to look into drainage problems within the marsh, and recommend solutions for some of the main issues. They came up with 32 suggestions - one of which was the construction or purchase of equipment for cleaning out the river that runs through the middle of the Holland Marsh.

The Drainage Commission sent a delegation over-

seas, consisting of the engineer and a drainage commissioner, to look into the kinds of equipment available - but they couldn't find anything that would realistically meet the needs of the marsh. They also approached several companies in Ontario, about constructing the needed equipment - with no luck.

After a little "arm-twisting," they persuaded Mr. Louis DeVald to construct a dredge, suitable for cleaning out the river. On March 10, 1976, DeVald and the Township of West Gwillimbury signed an agreement to construct "the barge" - a piece of floating equipment that could dredge weeds and silt from the river.

By the late fall of 1977, when the barge went into operation, there were some modification made - changing the equipment from a ladder-bucket system, to an auger system. After the first year, two side augers were added, making the barge even more effective at improving the flow of

water to the pumping station, without the problems of drawdown or premature shut-down of the pumps.

Cost of the barge was initially \$125,000; the side augers added another \$50,000 to the cost. Averaged over a 5-year period, and the 11.5 miles of river flowing through the middle of the Marsh, the cost of operating the barge has worked out to about \$1,600 per mile, per year.

The "barge," which celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year, is just one example of the specialized equipment, built in and for the Holland Marsh, by local families, inventors and engineers.

There is other equipment, important to the history and heritage of the Holland Marsh, that could be put on display atop the new berm - providing a driving tour of the history of marsh agriculture and the drainage scheme, and honouring the farming families whose contributions they were.

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# March Break at the Library

## BRADFORD TIMES STAFF

The BVG Public Library, 425 Holland St. West, and The Friends of the Library are hosting plenty of activities for March Break!

**Mon., March 14: 10 a.m. to noon.** Drop-in Crafts for all ages, free. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Drop-in Family Movie - Hotel Transylvania 2. (Rated G) Free. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Drop-in Xbox Kinect Just Dance 4, free for ages 8 and up.

**March 14 - Decorate a St. Patrick's Day Cake with Bonnie Aguiar of Sweet B's Bakery and Confectionery, for ages 6 to 11. Pre-registry; cost is \$17 per child - and kids will take home a great 6" cake to share. 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Tues., March 15: 10-11 a.m.** Kids' Clay Workshop to make an Animal Clay Treasure Box. Cost is \$13 per child, for ages 7-12. Pre-registry at Borrower Services, 10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Sing with Russ, a Concert for Kids 1-5 years old. Free tickets are available at Borrower Services, 2-3 p.m. Drop-in Lego for all ages, free.

**March 15 - Writing Workshop with Eve Silver, a White Pine winning Canadian YA author - 1**

**to 3 p.m. Please pre-register at 905-775-3328 ext. 6100.**

**Weds., March 16: 9 a.m. - noon.** Emergency Preparedness for kids, presented by BVG Fire & Emergency Services and the County of Simcoe Emergency Management. Video presentations, coloring books and other giveaways, a fire extinguisher simulator, and an opportunity to visit a fire truck. All ages - free 9 a.m. - noon. Drop-in Crafts for kids, 7-7:30 p.m., Drop-in Story Times - stories, songs, rhymes and a craft, for all ages.

**March 16 - Ronald McDonald drops by for an interactive storytime, 2 to 3 p.m. For ages 4-7. Free tickets are available at Borrower Services, in advance. Space is limited.**

**Thurs., March 17: 10-11 a.m.** Parent-Child Clay Workshop, for kids 7 and under and their parents, making an Easter Bunny Place. Cost is \$13 per child - pre-registry at Borrower Services, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Detective Kids will learn more about forensics, for ages 7 to 12. Cost is \$5 per child. Space is

## Commercial safety blitz pulls trucks off the road



South Simcoe Police conducted an "internal" commercial vehicle safety check, February 26. Five local officers were involved, over a 4 hour period - directing commercial vehicles to the Bob Fallis Sports Complex, where trained officers checked for everything from improper paperwork, to broken windshields and bald tires. By the end of the four hours, 75% of the vehicles checked had been taken out of service - including an 11,000 kg. Truck that was completely out of brake fluid, a vehicle with bald tires, and a truck carrying unlabelled Dangerous Goods (Flammable fuel). "It's a quite high rate," acknowledged Constable Jason Vandermeer, noting that a number of tickets for infractions were issued. The Police Service will be conducting a Spring Commercial Vehicle check later in the year, in partnership with Ministry of Transportation Inspectors.

limited - pre-registry at Borrower Services.

**March 17 - Comic Juggler Craig Douglas brings his high-flying, death-defying show to the library, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. For ages 4 and up. Tickets are \$6 per person, in advance at Borrower services.**

Fri., March 18: 10 a.m. - Noon.

**Free Drop-in Pajama Party for all ages. Crafts, activities, stories, and a cup of hot chocolate. Wear your jammies. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Drop-in Family Movie - Goosebumps (Rated PG). Free.**

**March 17 - Decorate an Easter Cake with Bonnie Aguiar of Sweet B's Bakery and Confectionery, 2-3 p.m. For ages 6 to 11; cost is \$17 per child, and each child will take home their own decorated cake. Register at Borrower Services in Advance.**

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all drop in programs.

## AGM at the Danube Centre

The Danube Seniors Leisure Centre, located at 715 Simcoe Rd. in Bradford, holds its Annual General Meeting on March 3, at 7 p.m. There are several board positions vacant, and members are urged to think about serving on the Executive, to help run this wonderful community facility, that has been serving the area's Seniors for 18 years.

**Coming up:** **Seniors' Health Seminar** on Thursday, March 10 starting at 11 a.m. Stephanie Camponi, Outreach Counsellor with York Region Addiction Services will present "Understanding the Gambling Industry - How the games work, how gambling targets Seniors, and the odds of winning." The Seminar will be followed by lunch for only \$6 for members, \$7 for non-members. All welcome.

## News Briefs

### March Break Monday at Tiffin

The Tiffin Centre for Conservation, 8195 - Line 8 of Essa Township, hosts **March Break Monday**, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour the Sugar Bush, tap a maple tree, visit the Sugar Shack, play snowscoops, create a craft, try out snowshoes or kidskidding. Admission is \$7.50 in advance (at [www.mvca.on.ca](http://www.mvca.on.ca), by March 11), or \$10 per person at the door. Kids 3 and under are free. Also, the sugar bush will be open for self-directed tours, 1:30 p.m., daily, Tues. to Fri., for \$6.50 per vehicle. Coming up: Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival at Tiffin, April 9 and 10.



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*Tjangu* from Australia means "meeting or coming together" and is rooted in local Anangu culture. The festival is a celebration and tribute to Australia's Indigenous people – showcasing everything from music and art to food and drink.

Inspired by Tjangu, this wine is a blend of three grapes that come together to contribute their own unique characteristics. Deep in colour, it exudes aromas of berry with a hint of toasty oak and cedar, complemented by flavours of black fruit.

MIFID (medium oak, full bodied, dry)

**CARRUSEL**  
chardonnay & viognier



*Carrusel* in Mendoza, Argentina is a grand parade of The Grape Harvest Celebration, inspired by the city's esteem for winemaking. Queens and princesses from every district hand out gifts of grapes hoping to win favour and become the Grape Harvest Queen.

This wine, reflecting the elegance and finesse of the Mendoza Grape Harvest Queen, is graced with aromas of tropical fruit. Soft and round on the palate, it is a blend that features a rich and creamy mouth feel.

LIMID (light oak, medium bodied, dry)

**LA BATALLA**  
tempranillo, grenache & cabernet



In Haro, Spain, *La Batalla* takes place atop a hillside where wine connoisseurs gather to take part in the world's largest wine fight. Wearing mostly white, participants drench each other in wine until they are a saturated sea of joyful pink people.

This ruby-coloured blend reflects the brightly coloured red wines enjoyed throughout this cheerful festival.

Rich on the nose and palate, it boldly displays black currant, raspberry, sweet spices and dried fruit.

LIMID (light oak, medium bodied, dry)

**CARNEVALE**  
pinot grigio & sauvignon blanc



*Carnevale* takes place in Venice, a city well known for its history, romance and tradition. Its vibrant culture comes to life during this auspicious festival celebrating indulgence in food, drink, fashion, and of course, masquerade.

This light white blend featuring Italy's celebrated grape – Pinot Grigio – reflects an Italian tradition in wine. Clear and light in colour, it is enriched with aromas of melon and citrus with a soft minerality on the palate.

ULID (unoaked, light, dry)

BRADFORDTIMES.CA

Police Briefs

## Obstruct Police

Bradford – On Feb. 25, just after 10 p.m., South Simcoe Police received a report of a possibly impaired driver, in the parking lot of a local bar. When officers arrived, they found a man and a woman arguing in the parking lot; the male was obviously drunk. The man was unco-operative and returned to the bar. Unsatisfied with the ID presented by the man, officer went into the bar – and located the man hiding under a table. He was arrested. Once his identity was confirmed officers learned that the male was out on a Court order to abstain from alcohol; placed in the cells, his conduct earned him an additional charge. A 37-year old Cochrane man was held for a bail hearing on charges of Obstruct Police, Fail to Comply with Undertaking, 3 counts of Breach Probation, and Mischief Under \$5000.

## Police Briefs... Remove the plates

South Simcoe Police are reminding the public to remove licence plates when selling a car. Recently, two residents reported receiving toll highway bills for licence plates they no longer have.

In Ontario, a vehicle ownership consists of two halves – a vehicle portion, and the plate portion. When you sell a car, you sign and hand over the vehicle portion of the ownership to the new owner. The plate portion, and the plates, are still yours and remain in your name. Never trust another person with your responsibilities. Plates can easily be placed on other vehicles, where toll highway cameras will pick them up – and send you the bill. Parking tickets can also be issued, which may affect your ability to renew all your vehicle plates, not just the ones in question. Be sure to remove the plates when you sell a car. A few minutes of work at one end will save hours of phone calls, clearing up unpaid bills and parking tickets.

## Home alone

York Region – At 5:40 p.m. on Feb. 23, York Regional Police attended a collision at the intersection of Yonge St. and Kingston Rd. in Newmarket. As officers spoke to one of the drivers involved they detected an odor of alcohol on the woman's breath. The 28-year old Newmarket woman was arrested for Impaired and transported to District HQ for breath testing, which registered a FAIL. During the investigation, officers learned that the driver had a young daughter left at home alone. Around 9:30 p.m., officers attended the woman's residence, where they discovered her 7-year old daughter alone. The father was contacted to pick up his daughter, and Children's Aid was notified. The woman was charged with Impaired Driving, Over .080, Obstruct Police, and Leave Child Unattended. The name of the accused has been withheld, to protect the identity of the child.

## Collision

Bradford – At 5:20 p.m. on Feb. 22, South Simcoe Police were called to a 2-vehicle collision at Holland St. East and Colborne, in Bradford. One of the vehicles failed to stop for the red light, resulting in the collision. Both vehicles sustained heavy damage, but there were no injuries to either driver.



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# Celebrating a milestone... 40 years of service



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

RBC team congratulate Marg (Williamson) Skasto (4th from right) on her 40 years of service with the bank, in Bradford on Friday.

## MIRIAM KING Bradford Times

When Marg (Williamson) Skasto started work at RBC, "it was supposed to be a summer job." Marg had just graduated from High School, she was still living at home in the house her dad built on John St., and she had enrolled at York University, planning to start in the fall.

But she ended up quitting York U. after one year and returning to work at RBC - and on February 26, 2016, surrounded by colleagues and well-wishers, Skasto celebrated 40 years with the bank.

She has worked at various branches, in both Bradford and Newmarket. For "quite a few years" she worked part-time, while raising her two children.

Now Senior Account Manager for Business and

Personal banking, and a Small Business Expert at Bradford's RBC West Branch, Skasto has seen huge changes in the banking business, over the decades.

When she started, Bradford was a village of about 2,000 people, and "everything was paper - we did everything by hand," including sorting the daily deposits and withdrawals. Now, records are digital, online banking is increasingly important, and RBC offers a wider range of products and services than ever before.

"Lots of change!" Skasto says - but the importance of Customer Service has remained one constant, over the decades.

RBC celebrated the milestone with flowers, a gift, and a luncheon at the Branch. Skasto plans to retire, at the end of the year.

## News Briefs

### March Break at Wishing Well

Wishing Well Sanctuary, for rescued farm animals, will be holding Tours during March Break! Tours are offered from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 13; Wednesday, March 16; and Friday, March 18. Only \$15 adults, \$7.50 for students. Come out to Wishing Well, 2710 Line 10 BWG, to meet the gentle animals rescued from abuse or the slaughterhouse. Regularly scheduled tours begin on the last Saturday of March, at 12:30 p.m., and are held on the second Sunday and last Saturday of each month, through to the end of November. For more information, see [www.wishingwellsanctuary.org](http://www.wishingwellsanctuary.org)

### Warden's March Break Fun Skate

Simcoe County Warden Gerry Marshall invites the Public to the Warden's March Break Fun Skate, Monday, March 14 at the BWG Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Avenue in Bradford. Join the Warden and County Councillors for free family skating, from 1:10 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. Please bring an item of non-perishable food, to donate to the local food bank. Note: Children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult.

### BRADFORD TIMES STAFF

Balloons, prizes, live music, cake and ice cream - St. Louis Bar and Grill celebrated its 1st Anniversary in Bradford on February 22 with a traditional Birthday party, and the whole community was invited.

Kids could create their own ice cream sundaes, topped with cherries and sprinkles, and everyone was invited to enjoy a slice of Birthday cake. It was quite the cake, decorated not only with St. Louis Bar and Grill's prize-winning Honey garlic wings (made of fondant), but also sugar celery and carrot sticks.

B101 FM provided the music up until 7 p.m., when Shawn Steinhart took over the mic, and kept the crowd entertained.



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Party hats, balloons and birthday cake - Amber Morrison and Duane Blanchette cut the cake at St. Louis Bar and Grill's 1st Birthday in Bradford, Ont. on Monday February 22, 2016.

There were specials, giveaways and plenty of fun from 4 p.m. until closing,

as the restaurant, located at 541 Holland St. West in Bradford, celebrated.



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Party time! Kids make their own Ice Cream Sundaes at St. Louis Bar and Grill's 1st Anniversary Party in Bradford, Ont. on Monday February 22, 2016.



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# MTO asked to ease regulations for Refugees

MIRIAM KING  
Bradford Times

Ontario communities are welcoming Syrian refugees – but Provincial red tape is creating difficulties for some of the new arrivals.

Many, like Ali Al Shteive and his family, had their documents lost or stolen, as they escaped the conflict in Syria.

A taxi driver in his home town near Homs, a centre of heavy fighting, Ali has an international driver's permit – but both his Syrian driver's licence and his cab were stolen when he and his family fled.

Now the Ontario Ministry of Transportation has told Al Shteive that his international permit is insufficient proof, and that he must start the whole licensing program anew – beginning with a G1 Licence. It's a process that will take 2 years.

In the meantime, Ali and his family – now 10 children, including a new baby born last month – must rely on volunteer drivers to get to and from the home that has been provided by their sponsors. That home, large enough for



SUBMITTED

Ali Al Shteive, at training in Bradford, on Saturday February 6, 2016.

the family of 12, is located on County Rd. 88, between Bond Head and Bradford – eight kilometres from Ali's new job at a packing plant.

Recently, he had to walk the 8 km after work, when a volunteer driver was not available.

Al Shteive's sponsors contacted Transportation Minister Del Duca, and were told, "There is no change to existing policy when a driver doesn't have their physical

licence. All applicants will be required to provide proof of foreign driving experience by presenting a valid foreign driver's licence and if necessary, an acceptable, valid and genuine translation of the foreign driver's licence. An original Letter of Authentication in the support of the licence being presented is mandatory when claiming more than 12 months previous driving experience."

Rev. Jim Keenan, part of the

BRIDG interdenominational group that is sponsoring the Al Shteive family, points out the impossibility of meeting the requirements, when dealing with refugees who have fled a war zone. BRIDG has asked the Ministry to allow refugees to bypass the G1 test, and immediately take a G2 driving test that would give them a measure of independence.

The Ministry has so far turned down the request. "The

Ontario government is proud that Ontario is a welcoming place for Syrian refugees," says MTO Senior Media Liaison officer Bob Nichols. "While we recognize that this is a difficult situation, all refugees are provided with the opportunity to present acceptable proof of foreign driving experience. However in the unfortunate circumstance that proof of foreign driving experience is not provided, all individuals can obtain a licence through the graduated system."

Nichols cites road safety as the key concern, pointing out that an International Driver's Permit "is not a source document. It is a document that permits the holder to operate a motor vehicle in a foreign country for a specified period of time and is issued usually by an automobile association, and not the foreign government licence issuing agency." It lacks the security features of an actual driver's licence.

Nichols also noted that there is no driver's licence exchange agreement between Ontario and Syria, that could expedite the process.

Minister Del Duca fell the welcoming of Syrian refugees

"quite a success story so far," but offered no immediate promise of shortcuts. "MTO is looking at any and all options that may be available for individuals in this situation, but as Minister of Transportation, my first priority is to make sure our roads and highways remain amongst the safest in North America. Ontario's graduated licensing system helps produce a result of safe roads and highways in our province, so as MTO looks at all options, we will continue to make sure that preserving the safety of the travelling public remains paramount."

Rev. Keenan is still hoping that accommodation can be made to allow Al Shteive and other refugees to at least drive to and from work. "The law gives them the authority to make policy," Keenan noted.

And although Ali himself is "grateful," and accepts the process, Keenan said, a little flexibility from the MTO would help.

The Hon. Steven Del Duca can be reached at Ministry of Transportation, 3rd Floor, Ferguson Block, 77 Wellesley St. West, Toronto ON M7G 1Z8.

## OYL Central Region Co-ordinator



Nicholas Ferreira, Grade 12 Honours student at Bradford District High School, has been chosen as Central Region Co-ordinator for the Ontario Young Liberals' executive, the youth wing of the Provincial Ontario Liberal Party, and federal Liberal Party of Canada. Ferreira, currently President of the York-Simcoe Young Liberals, said, "I'm looking forward to working with our team and supporting the many Liberal MPs and MPPs throughout our region."

He was involved in the 2014 provincial campaign of Loralea Carruthers, East Gwillimbury school trustee, and on the campaigns of 5 Liberal candidates during the past federal election – including that of Francesco Sorbara, MP for Vaughan-Woodbridge.

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BRADFORD BELLAS/BRADFORD TIMES/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Bradford Bellas Girls' Club flash mob performance at Don Cherry's Sports Grill in Bradford, Ont. on Sunday February 28, 2016.

# Flash Mob at Don Cherry's

## BRADFORD TIMES STAFF

First one young dancer stepped up, as "Better When I'm Dancing" by Meghan Trainor came over the loudspeaker. Then three, then 10. Soon 21 young dancers, most of them between the ages of 5 and 10, and all wearing pink T-shirts, filled the dance floor at Don Cherry's Sports Grill.

The "flash mob" was performed by members of the Bradford Bellas Girls' Club, a program at Treblemakers Music Academy. "It's a performance group that's

non-competitive - singing, acting, dancing," explained Treblemakers' founder Jobee Nelson.

The goal is to build "self-esteem, confidence, teamwork," Nelson said. "The first week, they were so shy! We're extremely proud of them."

It took 8 weeks of practice before the Bradford Bellas were ready to perform, and they followed their routine flawlessly, in front of an audience of over 75 friends, family and surprised diners at Don Cherry's, February 28.



Bradford Bellas Club flash mob holds at Don Cherry's Sports Grill in Bradford on Sunday February 28, 2016.



Treblemakers Music Academy's Bradford Bellas Club put on a flash mob performance at Don Cherry's Sports Grill in Bradford, Ont. on Sunday February 28, 2016.

## PLACES OF WORSHIP

**Springdale Christian Reformed Church**  
1468 Sideroad #5, Bradford  
905-775-3751  
Sundays 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday School & Nursery  
Pastor Paul VanSledright  
www.springdalecrtc.net

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
53 Miller Park Ave., Bradford  
905-775-3412  
Sunday Service:  
10:00 a.m.

**Bond Head United Church**  
Open Mids - Living Hands - Serving Hands  
Come check us out!  
Sunday at 10:30 am  
4221 County Rd. 88  
In the Hamlet of Bond Head  
"And now I will show you a most excellent way" - Rom. 7 Cor. 13

**Holy Martyrs of Japan Catholic Church**  
167 Essa St. Bradford 905-775-2065  
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Sat. 8:00 p.m., Sun. 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m.,  
11:30 a.m., 9:30 p.m.  
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**Trinity Anglican Church**  
62 Church St., Bradford  
(Corner of Church & James St.)  
Sunday Services, 10 am  
Sunday School, 10 am  
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trinityanglicanchurchbradford.com

**Bradford United Church**  
66 Barrie St.,  
905-775-7265  
Service - 10 am  
Sunday School Available  
www.bradfordunited.com

**St. John's Presbyterian**  
2940 - 10th Sideroad  
(8th Line & Highland St.)  
905-775-7274  
Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School and Nursery provided.  
stjohnspresbyterian.ca

**Alhamdulillah Muslim Jama'at**  
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at "Hendeeq Alhamdulillah"  
3959 10 Sideroad  
led by Imam Khalid Ahmad  
For further details, contact  
Imam Bilal | 647-963-9952  
@alhamdulillah

**Bradford Islamic Community Centre**  
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**Friday Prayer Service**  
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for further details

**Bradford Community Church**  
Mid-week small group  
905-775-9258, located on the S.E.  
corner of Hwy #11 & Conc. #9  
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**St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church**  
721 Simcoe Rd. Bradford  
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Priest 905-775-6105

**Riverdale Bible Chapel**  
905-836-1798  
#202-46 Bathurst (North of Hwy 11)  
11:00 am - Family Bible Hour  
1:00 pm Afternoon Service  
7:30 pm Wed - Prayer - Bible Study

**Holland Marsh Christian Reformed Church**  
10936 Dufferin St. R.R. #2 Newmarket  
Sundays 10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday School & Nursery with service  
Mid-week youth & adult programs  
Rev. Richard Budini  
905-775-7291  
E: hollandmarshcrtc@rogers.com

**Greater Life Community Church**  
The Church in the Library  
425 Holland St. W. Bradford  
Christian Education: 10:30 am  
Morning Worship: 11:00 am  
(647) 718-7849  
www.greaterlifeonline.com

**St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church**  
Bryantown Rd.  
16 Hearn St. Bond Head, Sunday Eucharist  
9:30am (Akanan), 11:30am (English)  
905-775-4282  
info@stcatherinecatholic.ca

**The Baha'i World Faith**  
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www.Baha'i.org

**Iglesia Hispana de Bradford**  
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# March Break Workshops at the Leisure Centre

March Break fun at the BWG Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Avenue in Bradford:

**Pottery Workshop** for ages 3 to 10, on Monday, March 14, 12:30 p.m.  
**St. John Ambulance**

**Babysitter Training**, for ages 10.5 and up, March 14 or March 16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Kids' Fun Factory Animal Creations**, Tuesday, March 15 from 11 a.m. to noon, for ages 3-10.

**Mystic Drumz Workshop**, for ages 3 - 10, March 16 from noon to 1:30 p.m.  
**Brick Road LEGO**

**Workshop** for ages 5 to 10, on Thursday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.  
**St. John Ambulance**

**Home Alone Course**, for ages 8 to 12, at the Leisure Centre, March 18 from 9 a.m. to noon, or from 1 to 4 p.m. For details or to sign up, see Customer Services at the Leisure Centre or call 905-775-7529.

## St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

Holy Martyrs of Japan Catholic Church in Bradford is hosting a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance - a fundraiser for local youth attending World Youth Day in Poland this summer. Saturday, March 12, 6 p.m. in the

Parish Hall, enjoy catering by O'Malley's, and music by the Connors Brothers, all for only \$30 per person. Tickets are available at the Parish Office, 167 Essa St. in Bradford. Watch for a Leprechaun!

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### FORESTO, Annelee (nee Lubker) -

Peacefully at her Warton home surrounded by loved ones, after a valiant battle with cancer on Saturday, February 27, 2016, at the age of 64 years. Loving wife of Doug. Cherished mother of Stephanie (Paul), and Montique (Jason). Also a special mom to Danielle (Chris), and Deanna (Brad). Devoted grandma to Ashleigh, Ryan, Kory, Gaden, and Granny Annie to Lily, Ella, Nollie and Aida. Dearest sister of Elfrida (Noel), Dirk (Teresa), Rosemarie, Ines (Farley), and Steven. Also loving sister to Molly, Keith (Debbie), Bev (Cynthia), and Jane. Survived by life-long friend and the father of her children, Gabriele; and mother-in-law Rosetta. Sadly missed by her many nieces and nephews. Annelee was a beautiful person, both inside and out: a loving, selfless, kind-hearted friend to everyone. The family would like to thank her doctors, COAC staff, and church volunteers for their compassionate care and never-ending support. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated as your expression of sympathy, and may be made through the THOMAS C. WHITCROFT PENINSULA CHAPEL, 272 Bradford St., P.O. Box 167, Warton, (519) 534-5341. Condolences may be expressed online at [www.whitcroftfuneralshome.com](http://www.whitcroftfuneralshome.com)

**WOLSTENHOLME, Joan Lols -**  
Peacefully passed away with family at her side at Bradford Valley Care Community on Saturday, February 27, 2016 in her 62nd year. Beloved wife of the late John. Loving mother of Gary (Tara), Gail (Dave) McGregor, Glen and Gloria (Andrew) Stalte. Proud Nana of Carter, Tristram, Heather, Alex, Bryce, Brandon, Tyler, Connor and Ryan. Joan will also be fondly remembered by Lew and Rene Stalte, Di and Perry Thompson, and Lynne and Chris Burnett. At Joan's request, cremation has taken place and a celebration of Joan's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to SKWARCHUK FUNERAL HOME, Bradford.

In Memoriams

In Memoriams

**PORTER, Barbara Jean -** In loving memory of a dear wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away March 7, 1998.

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